

MRFA Principles for 2014-2015 MRU Budgeting Process

1. The Association shall strive to protect the work of its members.
2. The Association shall argue that the University must support and protect its core function of teaching and, therefore, the resources allocated to credit instruction must be proportionally greater than those allocated to ancillary areas.
3. The budgeting process must be transparent and consultative. This includes but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Association-appointed members of BAC shall advocate for timely access to accurate, complete, detailed and meaningful information prior to BAC meetings;
 - b. The Association shall argue that the University must provide information on the relative proportions of salaries and benefits paid to staff, contract faculty, full-time faculty and management-exempt employees.
4. Association-appointed members of BAC shall endeavour to caucus with SAMRU and MRSA representatives prior to BAC meetings.
5. In accordance with the University's institutional strategic plan, the Association shall argue that the University must treat its people, including faculty, as its greatest asset. Therefore, salary must not be treated as an expense to be minimized or as a systemic problem to be solved.
6. Until the details of the University's operating grant are known, a basic assumption during the budget process must be that faculty salaries are estimated based on grid placement with a COLA equal to the CPI.
7. Unless additional government funding is provided, the Association shall argue that the University must only approve new programs through internal reallocation of funds.
8. The Association shall continue to advocate, in cooperation with staff, students and the University (when appropriate), for stable, predictable and sufficient funding for MRU, and for PSE in Alberta generally. This must be achieved primarily through operating grants, and not disproportionately through student tuition and fee increases.